

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY/SANTIAGO 425

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAO

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CI

SUBJECT: SOVIETS MARK CHILE ANNIVERSARY

1. SOVIET MEDIA, WHICH EVEN IN NORMAL TIMES CARRY
NUMEROUS DEROGATORY ARTICLES AND CARTOONS ABOUT CHILE
EACH WEEK, OUTDID THEMSELVES FOR THE "INTERNATIONAL
WEEK FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF CHILE"
SEPTEMBER 5-12. THE BULK OF THE ARTICLES REPLAYED
ROUTINE THEMES BUT THE EFFECT WAS TO INTENSIFY THE
IMPACT. THESE THEMES INCLUDED THE ALLEGED ATROCITIES
OF THE FASCIST JUNTA, THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE FOR
EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY THE WORKERS, THE FAVORS RENDERED
TO CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM BY THE JUNTA, THE
HISTORICAL BATTLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF REACTION AND OF
PROGRESS, AND THE HEROIC STRUGGLE BY THE CHILEAN

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PATRIOTS TO OVERCOME HEAVY OBSTACLES.

2. ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF ALLENDE'S OVERTHROW, SEPTEMBER 11, A LARGE PUBLIC MEETING WAS HELD IN MOSCOW, ATTENDED BY SEVERAL CHILEAN EXILES. GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV SENT A MESSAGE TO THE MEETING (PRAVDA, SEPTEMBER 12) IN WHICH HE LAMENTED THE KILLING OF ALLENDE AND THE OVERTHROW OF HIS GOVERNMENT. HE CHARGED THAT "FOREIGN IMPERIALIST CIRCLES" HAD ENCOURAGED THE CHILEAN MILITARY, BUT HE DID NOT MENTION THE U.S. EXPLICITLY. HE PRAISED THE COURAGEOUS STRUGGLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND VOICED SUPPORT FOR CORVALAN AND OTHER IMPRISONED LEFTISTS.

3. IN THE DAYS SINCE THE ANNIVERSARY THE SOVIET PRESS HAD REPORTED NUMEROUS MEETINGS AND SPEECHES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, FOCUSING ESPECIALLY ON ANTI-JUNTA RHETORIC AND CALLS TO FREE LEFTISTS.

4. CONTINUED SOVIET ATTENTION TO CHILE IS A REMINDER OF MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO KEEP UP ITS CREDENTIALS WITH THE NON-ALIGNED WORLD AND TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH A FELLOW COMMUNIST PARTY IN TROUBLE. IT ALSO KEEPS STILL POSE A POTENT THREAT TO SOVIET INTERESTS EVEN DURING THE PRESENT ERA OF DETENTE. THE INTENSITY OF THE COVERAGE ALSO UNDERLINES THE PROPAGANDA VALUE WHICH THE MARTYRED ALLENDE NOW PRESENTS-- A VALUE WHICH THE LIVE ALLENDE NEVER PRESENTED.

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